

PM delivers optimistic message



Guests enjoy the party. Ref:219213-18



Volunteers Liz Barnett and Pat Holt. Ref:129213-9



Volunteers pose for a picture with the Prime Minister and her husband Philip. Ref:129213-40



Dean Yorke with volunteer Belinda Clark. Ref:129213-6



Monika Olley, left, celebrated her birthday at the event. Ref:129213-21



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Braywick: Theresa May tells diners the

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SPEED READ: Diners who might otherwise be alone at Christmas sat down to enjoy turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day at SportsAble. They were joined by a team of volunteers, the Mayor and Mayoress and the Prime Minister.

PRIME Minister Theresa May had a message of optimism for guests at a festive community lunch on Christmas Day.

The Maidenhead MP has attended the event, which allows those who might otherwise spend Christmas on their own to enjoy a proper dinner, every year since she was elected in 1997.

She was joined by the Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead Cllr John Lenton (Con, Horton and

Wraysbury) and his wife Margaret and about 60 people for a traditional turkey lunch.

The event is organised by community group Churches Together in Maidenhead and held at SportsAble in Braywick Road,

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Bar volunteer Ed Dale. Ref:129213-22



Kitchen crew Alina Potworowski, chef Linda Pittick, Dominik Potworowski, Ian Boston and chef Eileen Faulkner cooked up a feast. Ref: 129213-3

at Christmas Day community meal



Theresa May pulls a cracker with former Advertiser editor Don Seal. Ref:129213-36



Theresa May was presented with flowers by Roy Wakelin. Ref:129213-39



Joan Smith with the Reverend Joan Hicks from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cox Green. Ref:129213-19



A quick selfie with the PM. Ref:129213-32



Volunteers Miranda Ward, Jennifer Studholm and Julie Dixon manned the reception desk. Ref:129213-5



The kitchen was a hive of activity as volunteers served up Christmas dinner to their guests. Ref:129213-24

future's bright – locally and nationally

with help from dozens of volunteers.

Mrs May arrived at about 12.30pm with her husband Philip, and chatted to guests sat at long tables before they tucked in to Christmas dinner.

She gave a short speech thanking volunteers and wishing all a merry Christmas.

Later she added: "It's really about community, and about the Maidenhead community coming together and making sure those people who, for whatever reason, may not have their family and friends around them and are not left on their own over Christmas.

"I'm looking forward to the new year and I'm optimistic for the future, for my constituents and nationally as well."

The Prime Minister was

presented with flowers by Roy Wakelin, 79, from Maidenhead.

Mr Wakelin said: "I've been coming here with my wife for many years.

"But since she died around five years ago she [the Prime Minister] always asks how I am."

Guests were then served their traditional meal, accompanied by live music.

Food was donated from a range of groups based in the area — the Rotary Club of Maidenhead Thames, the Lions Club of Maidenhead and the Advertiser's Cracker Appeal.

The chairman of Churches Together in Maidenhead, Andrew Fleet, thanked volunteers for all their hard work.

He added: "What I enjoy is helping all the people and seeing the smile it can put on their faces."

Ed Dale, 36, from High Wycombe, who has been volunteering at the event since it started, said: "We do it as a family every year.

"I can't think of anything else I'd rather do. It's what Christmas is all about really."

'It's what Christmas is all about really'

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